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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,439	04/13/2004	Volkmar Teichgraber	30691/DP016	4835
4743 7590 03/18/2008 MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP 233 S. WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 6300 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606			EXAMINER LIOU, ERIC	
			ART UNIT 3628	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 03/18/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 2/29/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. Applicant argues that the process of applying an identification code to the mail pieces in Didriksen is significantly different than that of the claimed invention because the identification code in Didriksen is applied at the departure location. In addition, Applicant notes that the claimed invention is different because a handling station detects information on the mailpiece, applies an identification code to the mailpiece, and subsequently applies new address information as a function of the identification code. However, claim 1 of Applicant's invention fails to specify the location at which the method steps occur. Thus, the identification code being applied to the mailpiece at the departure location does not change the fact that Didriksen anticipates the claim limitation. Didriksen still teaches applying a machine-readable identification code onto the mailpieces (Didriksen: pg. 3, lines 20-24; pg. 7, lines 15-20; pg.8, lines 1-3; pg. 25, lines 17-19; pg.26, lines 9-13; pg. 27, lines 20-22). Furthermore, Didriksen teaches applying an address label to the item that indicates a change of address that is different from a previously assigned address code (Didriksen: pg. 11, lines 16-27).
3. Applicant argues "A further difference is that in the inventive method the new address information (i.e., the identification label) is derived from data read [from] the mailpiece in a reading process." However, the claim does not expressly state that the new address information is derived from the data read from the mailpiece. The claim only recites detecting the code on the mailpiece and applying new address information onto the mailpiece. During patent

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examination the pending claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow (*In re Zletz* 13 USPQ2d 1320 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Claims in a pending application should be given their broadest possible interpretation (*In re Pearson*, 181 USPQ 641 (CCPA 1974)). A broad and reasonable interpretation of the claim limitation is that there are two distinct steps of detecting the code and applying the new address information on the mailpiece. In other words, the applying step is not entirely based on the detecting step.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Liou whose telephone number is (571)270-1359. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Eric Liou/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3628

/John W Hayes/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3628